

JOHN ALEXANDER ANDERSON

John Alexander Anderson was born in Heber, Utah, on May 14, 1886. The sixth child of a family of ten to Ludvig and Elizabeth Aird Anderson.

I began school in the Heber Central School in 1892 with Violet Aird as my first teacher. Being a natural left hander, she taught me to write with my right hand. I continued in school and lived with Uncle

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John (Dr. Aird) during the year 1896-7 doing chores such as tending his horse, shoveling snow and keeping fuel in the home. He lived in the stone house known as the J. L. Hiatt home.

In 1898-9 I worked for Uncle Henry Aird in the summer milking cows, harvesting hay, and tending the garden. Salary was \$8 per month and board.

In 1900 I went to live with Henry F. Watson. Salary in the summer was \$15 per month and board. In the winter, clothes and board and a small amount of spending money. At that time he lived in the old John Muir home on 6th East Street just across from father's home. In 1901 the Watsons moved to the farm beyond Charleston and I also went there to live. Attended school there, riding a horse two miles each morning. Finished the eighth grade on May 7, 1903. Worked on the farm during the summers for \$40 and board.

In the fall of 1903 I enrolled at the Brigham Young University; living again with Dr. Aird, doing chores for my board and lodging. His office on the second floor of the old Wood-Clifton dry goods store was my bedroom. During the three years I attended the BYU I did many odd jobs for my board; living with the Watsons during the summer and working on the farm at the same \$40 per month salary.

I discontinued school in March 1906, on account of illness, from which I was not supposed to recover. I remained in bed for three months at father's home living on a diet of buttermilk.

In June 1906, feeling better, I went to work in Park City at the Daly West Mine, but after two weeks found I was not strong enough to work. I then lived with Corey Hanks at his little camp stop and store in Daniel Canyon until the end of August. During August and September I hauled lumber from the Wasatch Lumber Company's

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mills in Strawberry Valley. Mr. George A. Wootton, the company manager, discovered that I could measure lumber very easily and he hired me to attend the yard at the mill in Strawberry. I worked there until the end of the year 1906.

On January 2, 1907, I was employed by A. Hatch and Company as a bookkeeper and clerk at a salary of \$50 per month.

Was married to Mary Alice Bagley on June 3, 1907. Wedding ceremony was performed by Bishop Robert Duke at my father's home. Reception and dinner was held on father's lawn with about 75 invited guests present.

To us were born eight children: Ivan LeRoy, Thelma, Joseph Dean, Pearl, Nelda, LaVon, Maurine, and John Ellwood. Dean died in 1915 and John Ellwood died at birth in 1923.

After marriage we spent two days on a honeymoon with Fred and Jennie Parker, Mary's sister, at Park City.

Our first home was a rented house on 2nd North and 2nd West, owned by Milton H. Murdock.

On August 10, 1907, I resigned from A. Hatch and Company and we moved to the Ontario Drain Tunnel where I accepted employment at \$5 per day.

In October of the same year, my father, mother, and Mr. William L. Turner came to the tunnel in Mr. Turner's surrey and black team and induced me to return to the Hatch store at a salary of \$75 per month. We decided to return and rented part of the home of N.W. Murdock on 3rd West and Center Street. In 1909 we purchased the home from Mr. Murdock and lived there until 1914 when we sold the home to John W. Daybell and purchased the home on First South and First East Street from George M. Jorgensen.

In the spring of 1911 I resigned again from the Hatch store to work for the William M. Roylance Produce Co. as a bookkeeper. After two months there, Mr. Turner again came to me and asked me to return again to the store at a salary of \$90 per month. I returned and remained with them until they discontinued business in 1916.

In the summer of 1915, A. Hatch and Company, wishing to discontinue business, allowed me time off to organize a new company to purchase their business. They paid my salary and offered me \$500 interest in the new business if I could organize a new

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company. I spent several months soliciting purchasers of stock, using a horse as my transportation. My efforts brought results and in April 1916 a corporation was given a charter in the name of Heber City Exchange Company. I was employed as its manager and continued as such until August 1936. My salary began at \$100 per month and the most I ever was paid during my 20 years as manager was \$150 per month.

My brother William, who was operating a restaurant and billiard hall at 151 North Main Street in Heber, passed away in June 1936. In the settlement of his estate I purchased his property and commenced in business for myself on August 1, 1936. The restaurant, operating at a loss, was closed in 1937 and a hardware store was opened in a small way. I took M. D. Close in as a partner to get started, transferring half the business to him for \$4,000. Two years later I bought his interest in the business for \$7,000.

I also purchased the coal business from Heber City Exchange Company in 1938 and entered the implement business the same year. In 1940 I leased ground from my son Ivan on South Main and built a machinery warehouse. In 1941 I installed a feed mill at the same place and moved my coal yard from the depot to the same location on South Main.

In 1943, my son Ivan purchased half interest in my business and we operated as a partnership until 1947 when we incorporated the business. During that time we built a new implement store and feed mill which, in connection with the hardware store, are operating at the present time.

In 1955, my feeling was that Ivan could do better by operating his timber business as sole owner. I purchased his interest in the corporation on June 30, and he continued in the timber and lumber business.

I continued operation of the Billiard Hall from 1936, as part of my business, then upon lease arrangement with others until 1955. I then had the Billiard Hall discontinued, removed the partition between that and the hardware store and opened the entire building to an up-to-date hardware store which is operating and doing a good business. Our formal opening was on November 1, 1955.

In reference to my other activities other

than operating my business. I note the following:

RELIGION

Baptized into the LDS Church by David A. Broadbent on January 2, 1904. Confirmed a member of the Church by Bishop Wm. Daybell, January 3, 1904. Ordained a Priest on January 4, 1916. Ordained an Elder on April 18, 1916. Ordained a High Priest by Elder Steven L. Richards and set aside as 2nd Counselor to Bishop Frederick Crook of the Heber Third Ward on April 28, 1918. Served as Sunday School Superintendent of Heber Third Ward 1916 to 1918. Served as Stake MIA Superintendent from 1921 to 1925.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Served as Secretary of Wasatch County Red Cross Chapter during the war years of 1916 to 1918 and continued until 1925. Served then as county chairman from 1925 until 1934. Served as County Chairman of Wasatch County War Bond Committee in 1950. Cited by Presidents Roosevelt and Truman for such service. Served as President of Inter-Mountain Hardware and Implement Dealers Assn. for two years, 1944 and 1945. Elected as Director of National Retail Farm Equipment Assn. in 1948 and continued as such to the present time.

CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Served as President of the Heber Booster's Club three terms, 1921, 22 and 23.

Served as President of Heber Lion's Club two terms.

Served as Cabinet Secretary of Lions, District 28, which then included all of Utah and Idaho.

Elected two terms as City Councilman and as such was chairman of the Heber Light and Power Board, during which time the Power Plant was rebuilt in 1929.

Elected as County Commissioner for two years, 1943 and 44.

Re-elected for a four-year term in 1944 and was chairman of the commission in 1946 and 47.

Served as Finance Chairman of Wasatch County Fair Board for eight years.

Served as President of the County Fair Board for four years.

Served as County Chairman of the Centennial Celebration in 1947.

Organizer of the present Wasatch Cham-

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ber of Commerce and became its first President on March 1, 1952.

Elected for a second term as President in March 1956. Has been a member of the board of directors since its organization.

Member of the Board of Directors of the Wasatch Summit Knife and Fork Club from 1953 until the present time. Also assisted in its organization.

Has served as a Director and one year as President of the Utah Council of Retailers from 1949 until the present time.

Now serving as Director and Vice-President of Utah Retail Merchant's Association which was organized in 1955.

LUMBER YARDS

In March, 1933, Leslie Lowe Ashton, his wife and two young sons arrived in Heber to establish the lumber and hardware business called "Ashton's." Included in the partnership were two other brothers, C. L. Ashton of Roosevelt and Rae Ashton of Vernal. They located in the old Bonneville Lumber Company building which they had purchased from Morrison-Merrill Company of Salt Lake City.

A month later Mr. Ashton moved the old frame building back 50 feet to allow room for a service station which he built in connection with the business. Shell Oil products were distributed. 164

LESLIE LOWE ASHTON



Leslie Lowe Ashton was born April 15, 1904, in Vernal, Utah, the son of Leslie and Eva Allen Ashton, early settlers of the Uinta Basin. Lowe spent his early years in Vernal, graduating from Wilcox Academy after which he spent a year in southern California attending UCLA, returning to Utah and entering the University of Utah for three years. In his early twenties Lowe was active in Masonic work, joining Basin Lodge No. 20 in Myton, Utah; later the Knight Templars in Price, Utah. After moving to Heber in 1933 he joined the Malta Commandery No. 3 in Park City. He then became a Shriner, affiliating with the El Kalah Temple in Salt Lake City. He married Alyce Hansen of Mt. Pleasant, Utah, on May 13, 1929, and to them were born three children: Leslie Lowe Jr., Homer H. and Merry Alyce. Lowe's early business career started in Duchesne, Utah, in March 1927, where he operated a dry goods store and a service station under the name of Ashton's, owned by himself and two brothers, C. L. Ashton of Roosevelt and Rae Ashton of Vernal. The first business operation in Heber occurred in 1930, when Ashton's sent Mel Poulson of Duchesne to Heber to manage the Shell Oil petroleum plant. In February of 1933 Lowe closed the dry goods store in Duchesne, and came to Heber in order to be closer to a railhead to supplement the businesses in Roosevelt and Vernal. In Heber with his brothers Rae and Clair the Bonneville Lumber Company was purchased which became known as Ashton's. The building was moved back from the street, a service station added, and with a complete stock of lumber and hardware and automotive supplies they began business as Ash-

ton's. In 1942 fire destroyed the store, station and most of the yard and Lowe was very seriously burned. Because of the war they were unable to rebuild completely so a small station and sheds were constructed and the building across the street which used to house Jeff's Hotel at 105 North Main was purchased. The hardware store remains at this location to this date. After the war the old tithing office building was purchased, torn down and a modern service station erected. The Aloma Motel and the lumber yard were constructed on the original business site. In 1943 the partnership with his brothers was dissolved so each could concentrate on the localities where they lived. Lowe retained business property in Vernal, Duchesne and Roosevelt to continue as a part of the petroleum division he had established. He operated a fleet of trucks to service these points for many years. Lowe Ashton was noted as an extremely energetic and hard working man. He spent long hours to establish his business on a sound basis. Lowe was prominent in the development of the community and civil life of the area from his arrival in Heber. He was an enthusiastic booster of the beauties of Heber Valley. He was a long time member of the Lions Club serving one term as president. He was one of the charter members of the Wasatch Chamber of Commerce, serving on the board of directors for several years. He was also a founder of the Wasatch Summit Knife and Fork Club, serving as its president and secretary for several terms. He served a term as head of the Draft Board during the early years of World War II. He also served a term under Governor J. Bracken Lee during 1953 and 1954 on the committee established by the governor to study the school and education problems of the State of Utah. In his state-wide activities as a business and civic leader, his membership in associations was outstanding for its scope and leadership. He was elected president of the Hi-Way 40 Clubs of Utah in 1940 and served this organization faithfully for many years, attempting to better the tourist and travel industries in Utah. He was a member of the Intermountain Lumber Dealers Assn for many years, serving as president in 1941. He was also a member of the Intermountain Hardware and Implement Dealers Assn, serving on their board of directors for several years. At the time of his death, he was president of the association. In April 23,

1957, Lowe Ashton died in the LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City, the result of a short illness. Alyce, his wife, his two sons and daughter remain in Heber, actively managing the many businesses that Lowe Ashton had created during the 25 years he lived in Heber Valley.

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